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sports state, Big Sky

WRESTLING
aslin/pas

MISSOULA--

Last week the University of Montana's wrestling team competed in the Boise Open. The competition at this unscored meet was very tough according to coach John Jerrim. Top teams present were Brigham Young, sixth in the Nationals last year; Boise State, (Big Sky champion last year); Idaho State; Weber; N. Idaho Junior College, and the University of Montana.

Coach Jerrim said, "The tournament wasn't scored, some wrestlers aren't eligible yet. So anyone can enter. This format helps teams out early on in the year."

The Grizzlies won one weight class last week. Brad Benn, a junior college transfer from Olympia, took first in the 142-pound class. Freshman Wade Romans placed sixth at 126. Myke Miller, a freshman from Spokane, grabbed fourth place honors in the heavyweight division. This was Myke's first outing for the Grizzlies this year.

Once of Montana's assistant coaches, Glen Nelson, entered and took fourth place honors at 126. And Rich Jimenez won two matches at 118.

Coach Jerrim said, "Basically, I was satisfied. We had 14 wrestlers at the tournament. It was as tough a meet as we'll be in this year."

Grizzlies who missed this meet and will be strong competitors this year are Neal Nix, second in the Big Sky two years ago; Jim Clowes, third last year in the Big Sky; Dan Scow, in his fourth year of varsity competition; Lamont Roth, coming off an injury and last year's Big Sky champion at 158 as a freshman, and Scott Morton, who went to the Nationals last year at 190.

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Next week the Grizzlies will host Weber State in Adam's Field House at 1 p.m. This will be Montana's first taste of Big Sky league competition.

"This will be a tough match. Weber is at full strength now and we won't be until after Christmas," Jerrim said. "Scott Morton, Dan Scow and Myke Miller will miss this, our first league competition. We hope to win but a lot of people think Weber will be the team to beat this year," Coach Jerrim said. He added, "Two of their wrestlers placed in the Big Sky Conference championships last year and now they wrestle for the junior varsity. This is an indication of their strength."

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